

SECRET

24 April 1959

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MEMORANDUM FOR [REDACTED]

In the period June 1937-June 1938, I worked as a teacher in an incomplete middle school (nepolnaya srednyaya shkola) in the village (selo) of Savinovo, Zonal'nogo rayon (known previously as Biyskiy-Sel'skiy rayon), Altayskiy kray. During the above mentioned period, in approximately August-September 1937 an order was received by the village soviet of the village of Savinovo, from the rayon authorities of the Zonal'nogo rayon (from the Zonal'nogo rayon party committee). The order was that the village Party and Komsomol organizations were to open a club immediately, using the building of the local orthodox church for that purpose. The priest of the above mentioned orthodox church (whose name I don't remember) was arrested by the Soviet authorities in 1931 during the period of collectivization, and since then nothing was heard of him. The church was closed from the moment of the priest's arrest. The faithful (the orthodox population) of the village of Savinovo wrote several letters to the rayon executive committee and to the higher government organs among which one was sent personally to the President of the USSR, Michael Ivanovich Kalinin, with the request that a new priest be given to them and for permission to open the church once again. All of the peoples requests which were sent to Moscow were returned to the rayon executive committee, which together with the rayon communist party committee, decided, instead of the renewal of the church services, to open a club for dancing, showing movie films and reading anti-religious lectures.

Soon after this, approximately, the end of September or the beginning of October 1938, a club was opened in the church, and the rayon authorities received an answer to the effect that a club is being opened in the church at the request of the Komsomols and the youth people because there wasn't priest to conduct services, so the church could not be reopened.

In the above mentioned period, I as secretary of the Komsomol organization of the Savinovo village, was a member of the commission for the removal of church property and I officially signed the inventory of the list of the Savinovskaya church property (church inventory), which was removed from the church and sent to the chairman of the Savinovskiy village soviet, to communist Pivovarov, in a separate box. At the same time with me as a member of the commission was a female komsomol, secretary of the village soviet - Yevdokiya Gonnikh and another komsomol member, whose name I don't remember.

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